## Clark staff receive two CHARACTER COUNTS! grants

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Two Clark Advanced Learning Center staff members, Leslie Kandefer and Linda Jaskela, recently received CHARACTER COUNTS! mini-grants totaling \$800 for their proposals in support of positive behavior among high school students. Pictured (L-R): Susan Roark, Clark Assistant Director; Ariana Martinez, Clark student, Leslie Kandefer, Clark School Counselor; Linda Jaskela, Clark Career Specialist, and Holly Laiben, United Way of Martin County.

STUART — Two Clark Advanced Learning Center staff recently received CHARACTER COUNTS! minigrants for their proposals in support of positive behavior among high school students. CHARACTER COUNTS! is a character education program sponsored by the United Way in Martin County. In its fourth year, CHARACTER COUNTS! grants totaling \$10,000 are awarded to district personnel, schools, individual teachers and staff for supporting and enhancing the CHARACTER COUNTS! program. The mini-grants help with the implementation of awareness projects in literacy, positive behavior, anti-bullying, and physical education.

The two Clark Advanced Learning Center recipients receiving grants totaling \$800 are: Leslie Kandefer for "The Heart of Art, It's All About Character," and Linda Jaskela for "Character is Everyone's Business." Kandefer, of Tequesta, has been employed at the Clark Advanced Learning Center for four years and is the Clark School Counselor. She earned a Master's Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University. Jaskela, of Palm City, has been employed at the Clark for three years as a Career Specialist and earned a Bachelor's Degree of Liberal Arts from Barry University. In addition, Clark student, Ariana Martinez, assisted Kandefer with the idea for her proposal.

Clark Advanced Learning Center students have an opportunity to complete one to two-years of college at no cost through dual enrollment. Students also engage in internships related to their interests and utilize technology in project-based learning. A personal laptop computer is assigned to each student while in attendance at the school. The Clark Advanced Learning Center is located at the <a href="Indian River State">Indian River State</a> College Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, in Stuart. Applications are available now.

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